

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 07409 130549Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-09 SOE-02
DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 SAS-02
AF-10 ARA-11 NEA-10 /162 W
-----100880 141201Z /43

R 130515Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4285
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 74099

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, IAEA, AS
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

REF: CANBERRA 7319

1. POLCOUNS/BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION TOD US THIS AFTERNOON
HE HAD JUST TALKED TO DFA NUCLEAR POLICY BRANCH, WHO CON-
FIRMED POSITION GIVEN TO US IN EARLY JUNE (CANBERRA 4375);
NAMELY THAT AUSTRALIA CONTINUED TO SUPPORT ENLARGEMENT OF
THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS FROM 34 TO 36, AND THAT THIS
HAD RECENTLY WON MINISTERIAL REAFFIRMATION.

2. ACCORDING TO UK HICOM, AUSTRALIA'S POSITION IS BASED
UPON BOTH ITS PERCEPTION OF EQUITY (IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR
THE WESTERN STATES TO SEEK TO PERPETUATE THEIR PRIVILEGED
POSITION "THROUGH WHAT MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ABUSE OF
THE IAEA CHARTER..") AND AUSTRALIA'S BELIEF THAT DEVELOPING/
EMERGING COUNTRIES ARE ONLY GOING TO BE INVOLVED IN THE
NUCLEAR DEBATE IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER IF RESPONSIBILITY
IS THRUST UPON THEM.

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3. DFA, WE GATHER, COMMENTED THAT THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE
A BOARD OF 36 WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS MANAGEABLE THAN
ONE OF 34, AND AUSTRALIA HAS AN INTEREST IN ENLARGEMENT
FOR POLITICAL REASONS ANYWAY BECAUSE IT IS BOTH A MEMBER
OF THE "WESTERN EUROPE/OTHER" GROUP AND THE DESIGNATED
MEMBER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA/PACIFIC.

4. WE HAVE SAID NOTHING FURTHER TO DFA ABOUT IAEA
ENLARGEMENT (SINCE OUR APPROACH TWO MONTHS AGO) AND DON'T
PLAN TO UNLESS DEPARTMENT WISHES OTHERWISE.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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